

resolution, against naming names when we really have little or no understanding of what goes into that price increase. If the cost of fuel to Northern who is a distributor goes up as it has done, not just with Northern, but with all gas companies, how in the name of sin can we expect them to absorb the kind of increases you are talking about. How can we expect them in the face of our fine government inflation to finance the operation of that company, to pay their increasing taxes, to pay their increasing cost of employment and hold the line singlehandedly on the cost of gas. Now I concur very heartily with Senator Venditte's resolution. I would be happy to endorse it in sending it to Washington to where it properly belongs, if the President is back. I am not sure. But to tee off on a local company that is one of the more stable factors of Nebraska's economy to me seems in exceptionally bad taste and actually an error in judgment. If any of you who have signed that petition will sit down with me, show me the incremental costs that go into the cost of gas at this point in the pipeline from production right on through, then I would be most happy to remove my objection to mentioning Northern but I do believe that we are painting the wrong fence black. We are calling a name to a company that most certainly does not deserve it, that is caught in this problem that all of Washington despite my President's promise that this would be one of the first things that he would accomplish, still in Washington nothing has happened and we are going to tee off on a local corporation and I think it would be most unfortunate to do so. I would ask that Senator Venditte and his people agree to reframing the wording of that resolution and eliminating Northern Natural. They are not an enemy. They are a friend and a supporter through taxes of our state government.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, seldom do I concur with Senator Murphy on certain kinds of issues. As Senator Venditte is concerned with the fact that I did not sign this resolution, but for the same reason that Senator Murphy just stated, that is the reason I didn't sign it. Northern Natural Gas goes through a rigorous type of hearing by the Federal Power Commission or the new Energy Commission for the rates which they are established or given for the purpose of their product. I believe this resolution is like many that we spend time with on this floor. It is shallow. It indicts the wrong people, and in the end, it is worthless. Sending Congress a resolution, or whoever it might be, from this body is like going off hunting with a flyswatter. Northern Natural Gas is unfairly picked upon in this resolution. They in turn buy their resource from someone else, and if you want to get to the genesis of it, then you had better do additional research and find out who they all are that are involved in the business of increasing costs of energy. I will not support this resolution, when we, I think, with carelessness pick on one corporation who probably has very little control over it in terms of rates, increases and the scarcity of a valuable resource.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I can understand what Senator Koch and Senator Murphy